Appln No. 09/735,170

Amdt date July 19, 2004

Reply to Office action of May 18, 2004

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-13, 15-16, 18-19, 21-28, 34-49, 51-52, 54-55, and 57-64 are now pending in this application. Claims 16, 21, 26, 28, 52, 57, 62, 64 have been amended. Withdrawn claims 31 and 32 have now been canceled.

The Examiner indicated that the application was in condition for allowance except for certain informalities noted for claims 16, 21, 26, 28, 52, 57, 62, and 64. These claims have now been amended to correct the informalities. The amendments were made for reasons unrelated to patentability. An early indication of allowance of claims 1-13, 15-16, 18-19, 21-28, 34-49, 51-52, 54-55, and 57-64 is therefore respectfully requested.

If there are any remaining issues that can be addressed by telephone, Applicant invites the Examiner to contact the undersigned at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,
CHRISTIE, PARKER & HALE, LLP

Βv

Josephine E. Chan

626/795-9900

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